

From: Doyle Seppala
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:45pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The settlement must not stand. Over one hundred years ago, the combination of lawmaking (Congress) and law-defining (Supreme Court) bodies laid down the antitrust laws that say despite the fact that we are a free enterprise based society, we are not free as corporations to do whatever we like. One can draw the comparison of personal freedoms. We have pretty much free reign to do most anything we like so long as it does not harm others. I can freely walk down Main Street with an arm tied behind my back, wearing a silly look on my face, and skipping every third step. People might consider me odd, but I can do it. If I choose to do this with the added strangeness of firing a bazooka into the air every third step, I should hope that I would be rapidly stopped from endangering others.

Microsoft should have the right to bundle whatever they wish into a software package. That is their right. They should not, however, then force OEM's to make us buy that package, which is the current situation. The proposed settlement would codify Microsoft's behavior, encouraging them to require that all software sold by their partners be Microsoft software. The record shows quite clearly that this convicted monopolist will take whatever steps necessary to circumvent or eliminate any person, company, or law which stands in the way of Microsoft's goal of total ownership of all software markets, including the Internet.

Please take future generations into consideration when deciding this issue. I don't want my children to be force-fed a specific company's idea of software. I want there to be fair choice.

Thank you,

Doyle R. Seppala